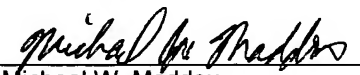





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AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER				Docket No. 64104-00002USC1	
Application No. 10/699208-Conf. #2784		Filing Date October 31, 2003		Examiner M. G. Mendoza	
				Art Unit 3731	
Applicant(s): Leonard Stevens et al.					
Invention: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLOSING A SEVERED STERNUM					
<b>TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS</b>					
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.					
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
<b>CLAIMS AS AMENDED</b>					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims		- 20 =		x	
Independent Claims		- 3 =		x	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee (please specify):					
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Large Entity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Entity					
<input type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for this amendment.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. <u>10-0447</u> as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.					
 Michael W. Maddox Attorney Reg. No.: 47,764				Dated: <u>March 24, 2005</u>	
JENKENS & GILCHRIST, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200 Dallas, Texas 75202 (214) 855-4779					
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.					
Dated: March 24, 2005		Signature:  (Marcy Overstreet)			

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 24, 2005

Signature:

*Marcy Overstreet*  
(Marcy Overstreet)

Docket No.: 64104-00002USC1  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Leonard Stevens et al.

Application No.: 10/699208

Confirmation No.: 2784

Filed: October 31, 2003

Art Unit: 3731

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLOSING  
A SEVERED STERNUM

Examiner: M. G. Mendoza

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated January 19, 2005, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 8 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.